



Atty. Dkt. No. 028567-0146

IFW

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Hiromi KATAOKA

Title: SIMILAR PATTERN SEARCHING APPARATUS,  
METHOD OF SIMILAR PATTERN SEARCHING,  
PROGRAM FOR SIMILAR PATTERN SEARCHING,  
AND FRACTIONATION APPARATUS

Appl. No.: 10/580,252

Filing Date: 05/22/2006

International PCT/JP2004/016841  
Appl. No.:

International 11/12/2004  
Filing Date:

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: Unassigned

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 CFR §1.56**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56.

A copy of each non-U.S. patent document and each non-patent document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be

appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

**TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits.

**RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT**

The relevance of Documents A1 through A3 is described in the present specification. Unless otherwise indicated, no English translation is readily available (not considering machine-generated translations that may be freely available online, to both the Applicant and the PTO) for the non-English language document. However, an English language translation is provided herewith, where indicated on the attached Form PTO/SB/08. Inasmuch as Applicant has endeavored to provide at least one item that complies with the requirement for a "concise explanation of relevance" for the non-English language document, this document has been submitted in compliance with the PTO requirements and should be considered by the Examiner (37 CFR §1.97, §1.98 and MPEP §609).

Applicant respectfully requests that each listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

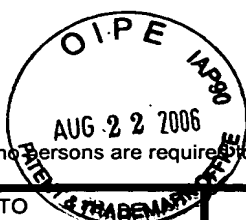
Although Applicant believes that no fee is required for this Request, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Request to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date August 21, 2006

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Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

MODIFIED PTO/SB/08 (08-00)  
Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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|---|---|----|---|-------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Substitute for form 1449B/PTO</b><br><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br/>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b><br><br>Date Submitted: August 22, 2006<br><i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i> |   |    |   | <b>Complete if Known</b>      |                |
|   |   |    |   | <b>Application Number</b>     | 10/580,252     |
|   |   |    |   | <b>Filing Date</b>            | 11/12/2004     |
|   |   |    |   | <b>First Named Inventor</b>   | Hiromi KATAOKA |
|   |   |    |   | <b>Group Art Unit</b>         | Unassigned     |
|   |   |    |   | <b>Examiner Name</b>          | Unassigned     |
|   |   |    |   | <b>Attorney Docket Number</b> | 028567-0146    |
| Sheet   | 1 | of | 1 |                               |                |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS |                       |                      |                                   |   |  |   |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Examiner Initials*    | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | U.S. Patent Document |                                   | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
|                       |                       | Number               | Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known) |   |  |   |
|                       |                       |                      |                                   |   |  |   |
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|                       |                       |                      |                                   |   |  |   |

| UNPUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATION DOCUMENTS |                       |                                  |                                   |   |  |   |
|---|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Examiner Initials*                            | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | U.S. Patent Application Document |                                   | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Filing Date of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
|   |                       | Serial Number                    | Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known) |   |  |   |
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|   |                       |                                  |                                   |   |  |   |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS |                       |                         |                     |                                      |  |  |   |                |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|----------------|
| Examiner Initials*       | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Document |                     |                                      | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents | Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | T <sup>6</sup> |
|                          |                       | Office <sup>3</sup>     | Number <sup>4</sup> | Kind Code <sup>5</sup><br>(if known) |  |  |   |                |
|                          |                       |                         |                     |                                      |  |  |   |                |
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|                          |                       |                         |                     |                                      |  |  |   |                |

| NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS |                       |  |                     |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|--|---------------------|
| Examiner Initials*              | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. | T <sup>6</sup>      |
|                                 | A1                    | SUMIO WATANABE, Data Learning Algorithm, ISBN4-320-12005-1, A5, pg. 208, 3300  | English Translation |
|                                 | A2                    | IGOR CADEZ et al., "A General Probabilistic Framework for Clustering Individuals", Technical Report No. 00-09, Department of Information and Computer Science, University of California, Irvine, 16 pgs., (2000)   |                     |
|                                 | A3                    | TOM HESKES, "Self-organizing maps, vector quantization, and mixture modeling", IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks, Vol. XX, No. Y, pp. 1-7 (2001)  |                     |
|                                 |                       |  |                     |

|                           |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Examiner Signature</b> | <b>Date Considered</b> |
|---------------------------|------------------------|

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.